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It is pleasant to be able to add that the long-prayed-for rains have at last made their welcome appearance, and that there are no signs of plague either in Canton or in its vicinity.

Respectfully,

ROBERT McWADE,  
*United States Consul.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

*Report from Hongkong.*

HONGKONG, CHINA, *April 1, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the abstract of bills of health issued at this station during the week ended March 29, 1902.

Five vessels were inspected, 611 individuals were bathed at the disinfecting station, and 738 bundles of clothing and bedding were disinfected by steam. There were 2 rejections because of fever.

The return of communicable diseases for the week show that the following diseases occurred in the colony, viz, 17 cases of cholera and 16 deaths, 5 cases of enteric fever, and 5 cases of smallpox and 5 deaths. Of the total number of cholera cases, 6 were imported from Singapore and 1, an European, was imported from Canton. Unofficial reports from Canton state that cholera continues severe in the city and that the disease has spread to the surrounding country. The local press states that the Chinese in Canton believe that the present sickness is caused by the foreigners poisoning the water.

A cablegram from Dr. Anna Scott, of the American Baptist mission at Swatow, states that cholera has not made its appearance in that city. A cablegram was also received by Castle Wolfe & Co., during the week from the United States consul at Toochow stating that there has been no cholera in that city thus far.

The mortality returns for the month of February, 1902, show that 355 deaths were reported in the colony, a percentage mortality of 14.4 per 1,000 per annum for the total population excluding the army and navy. The percentage mortality among the British and foreign population was 21.3 per 1,000; among the Chinese land population, 15.5 per 1,000, and among the harbor population, 17.8 per 1,000. Of the total deaths reported, 5 were due to smallpox, 1 to diphtheria, 3 to enteric fever, 13 to diarrhea, 3 to dysentery, and 1 to bubonic plague, 20 to malaria, 24 to beriberi, 1 to meningitis, 13 to tetanus, 32 to bronchitis, 28 to pneumonia, and 66 to phthisis pulmonalis.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KERR,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Plague epidemic at East Honam.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, D. C., May 2, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to advise you for the information of U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, that the Department is in receipt of a telegram from the consul of the United States at Canton, China, under date of the 1st instant which reads: "Plague epidemic East Honam, Canton decreasing."

Respectfully,

JOHN HAY,  
*Secretary of State.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.